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Wilson, Larry David. 1990. *Tantilla miyatai*.

Tantilla miyatai Wilson and Knight

Tantilla miyatai Wilson and Knight, *in* Wilson, 1987:12. Type locality, "Puerto Quito (0°10'N 79°16'W), Prov. Pichincha, Ecuador." Holotype, Museum of Comparative Zoology 166541, an adult male collected in September, 1983, by Giovanni Onore (examined by author).

• **Content**. No subspecies are recognized.

• **Definition**. A species of *Tantilla* with a head pattern consisting of a brown cap separated from a very dark brown nape band by a medially divided pale nuchal band. Pale markings on the internasals and anterior portions of the prefrontals are very distinct. Dark subocular pigment is present around the ventral edge of the eye; the preocular and postocular spots are confluent. The dorsal color pattern consists of numerous dark stripes of varying intensity on a dorsal ground color of tan on rows 1 through the lower half of row 5 and brown on the remainder of the dorsum. There is a broad, diffuse dark brown stripe on the adjacent halves of rows 2 and 3. Narrow diffuse dark stripes course down the middles of each of rows 5 and 6. A relatively well-defined very dark brown stripe occupies most of the middorsal scale row. An irregular narrow very dark line is present the length of the midventer (Wilson, 1987). Ventrals and subcaudals range from 165 to 172 and 73 to 92, respectively.

• **Diagnosis**. *Tantilla miyatai* may be distinguished from all congeners by its dark middorsal stripe, an irregular dark midventral line, 165-172 ventrals and 73-92 subcaudals.

• **Descriptions**. The original description (Wilson, 1987) is the only one available.

• **Illustrations**. Wilson (1987) provided a pen-and-ink drawing of the dorsal pattern of the holotype.

• **Distribution**. *Tantilla miyatai* is known only from the type locality at a moderate elevation (ca. 750m) in the Tropical Rainforest formation (sensu Holdridge, 1967) in the Andean foothills of northwestern Ecuador.

• **Fossil Record**. None.

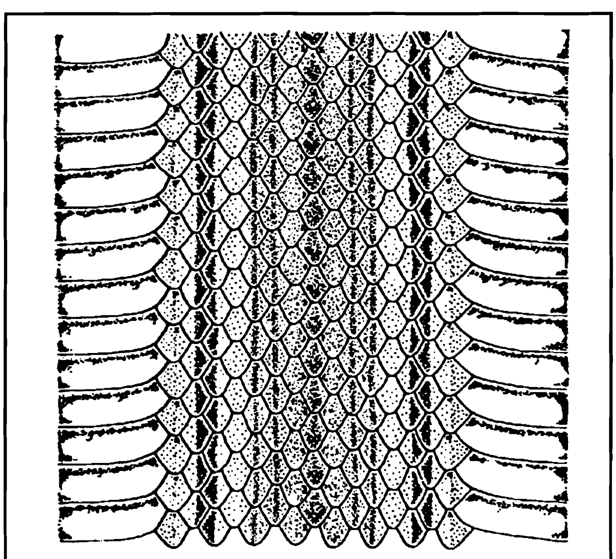
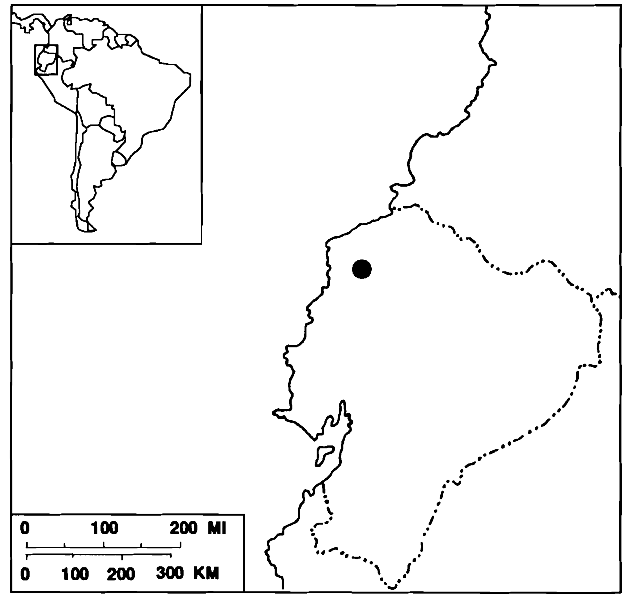


Figure. Dorsal pattern of *Tantilla miyatai* (from Wilson, 1987).



Map. Solid circle represents the type locality.

• **Pertinent Literature**. Wilson and Knight (*in* Wilson, 1987) described the species and commented on its relationships to other members of the *Tantilla melanocephala* group (sensu Wilson and Mena, 1980).

• **Etymology**. The name *miyatai* is a patronym for Kenneth Miyata, promising student of Ecuadoran herpetology, who died tragically in a fishing accident in 1983.

• **Comment**. Two additional specimens of this taxon have been made avilable to me through the courtesy of Volker Mahnert of the Museum d'Histoire naturelle in Geneva, Switzerland (MHNG). Both are from the type locality. One (MHNG 2221.27) is a female with 169 ventrals and 73 subcaudals. The other (MHNG 2221.28) is a male with 172 ventrals and 92 subcaudals. Both specimens are larger than the holotype. The female has a total length of 394 mm and a tail length of 102 mm (tail/total length ratio of 0.259); respective figures for the male are 443 mm, 128 mm, and 0.289. These compare with figures for the male holotype of 375 mm, 104 mm and 0.277. Color patterns of both specimens agree in general with those of the holotype. On the male MNHG 2221.28, however, the dark midventral markings, unique to this species, begin on ventral 40. The dark striping on the dorsum and the dark markings of the venter are more muted in the female MNHG 2221.27 and the latter begin on ventral 26.

Literature Cited.

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